view of its working was carried out in 1989-90. This led to restructuring of the Board, alongwith revision of the Wastelands Development Programme, with a view to enhance effectiveness. The new approach focusses on enlisting people's participation, harnessing inputs of science and technology and achieving inter-disciplinary coordination in programme planning and implementation. The strategy aims at integrated land-use planning on watershed basis, village level action plans, emphasis on conservation and natural regeneration, fuelwood, fodder and timber production and technology extension. This programme is being implemented with renewed vigour, mainly through the State Governments, which have been advised recently to strengthen the monitoring mechanism and ensure improved results. The Wastelands Development Programme will be expanded during the Eighth Five Year Plan, which is under finalisation. On the basis of a review of working and experience gained, further steps may be taken.

Leasing of Surplus Railway Land

1961. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to lease out surplus railway land and other idle properties in metropolitan cities and other places to the private builders;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme and the terms and conditions of the contracts in this regard; and

(c) the area of the total surplus railway land?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAY (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c). At present there is about 61,000 hectares of vacant land in the Railway. However, all this land cannot be declared surplus as most of the railway land lying vacant at present is required for Railways' future developmental works. It is proposed to explore the feasibility of commercially exploiting space over railway land and land presently lying vacant without obstructing the use of the land by Railways when required with a view to generating additional resources for Railways' developmental projects.

Development of Infrastructural Facilities to Promote Tourism

1962. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to develop basic infrastructural facilities at 15 centres in the country to promote and encourage tourism; and

(b) if so, the details of the centres identified?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government are in the process of formulating a scheme to develop special tourism areas. However, these areas would be identified in consultation with the State Governments.

Nehru Yuwak Kendras

1963. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: